



TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Vet Talk

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STUDENT FOCUSED ENGAGEMENT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CONGRATULATIONS TO TUCVM'S NEW DVMS - CLASS OF 2026!!! 51 NEW DOCTORS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE RECOGNIZED MAY 2, 2026



The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) welcomed 51 new doctors of veterinary medicine into the 77th graduating class on May 2nd during the Graduate and Professional Schools commencement followed by the Veterinary Oath and Hooding Ceremony.

The Class of 2026 has now joined the ranks of Tuskegee veterinary alumni from the first veterinary medical professional program on the campus of a Historically Black College or University (HBCU). Since 1949, Tuskegee has awarded over 3,186 veterinary medicine degrees. Dean Gilbreath also acknowledged to the Class of 2026 that she was honored to now serve as dean to the first Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) graduating class under her deanship.

This year the veterinary medicine challenge keynote address was delivered by Tuskegee 2001 veterinary alumna and faculty member Athema Etzioni, DVM, MS, DACVP. Dr. Etzioni gave an energized and inspiring oath charge to the newly named doctors of veterinary medicine centered around their class motto, 'All Gas No Breaks!' After the hooding and the administration of the Veterinarian's Oath by Dean Gilbreath, 2003 veterinary alumna and Tuskegee Veterinary Medical Alumni Association (TVMAA) President Dr. Dana Fuller gave a welcome on behalf of the veterinary alumni association and one-year free alumni membership to all the new veterinary graduates.

Best wishes to our recent graduates as they embark on the next step of their professional journeys! To view the oath ceremony again, go to:

[Tuskegee University YouTube channel.](#)



TUCVM clinician Dr. David McKenzie & his daughter, **Dr. Catherine McKenzie** - C/O 2026, and TUCVM Clinician Dr. Lorraine Linn & her daughter, **Dr. Jean Linn** - C/O 2026

TUCVM Small Animal Health Fair: A Huge Success!



After a two-year break, TUCVM was excited to host the return of the Small Animal Health Fair on April 18. This community event was a huge success with over 160 pets seen this year, which has been noted



as the highest number received in the Small Animal Health Fair history. It also had television coverage from Spectrum News and WAKA. TUCVM veterinarians, veterinary technicians, lab assistants, VTH staff, and pre-veterinary and veterinary medicine students under the guidance of veterinarians performed and assisted with the following services for clients: physical exams, occult heartworm tests, and fecal analysis exams at no charge; at cost or discounted rate: Distemper/Parvo Vaccine, Rabies Vaccine, Bordetella (kennel cough) Vaccine, deworming treatment, and flea/tick and heartworm prevention medication. The health fair was open for dogs, cats, rabbits, some exotics, and pocket pets.

TUCVM IBS Graduate Student Gets Award



Congratulations to **Ms. Viona Osei**, a TUCVM third-year IBS graduate student, on her recent award. She was awarded the Advances in Genome Biology and Technology – Agriculture (AGBTAg) Next Gen Leadership Award on April 14, 2026, during the AGBT Ag conference held in Phoenix, Arizona. Osei received her undergraduate degree in Medical Laboratory Science from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana.



Students: When Needing Help, please reach out to Veterinary Social Worker Chankia Berry, 334.724.4247, cberry@tuskegee.edu; Student Affairs Director Deetra Benn, 334.725.2364, dbenn@tuskegee.edu.

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